

REMARKS

The specification has been amended consistent with the drawings to address the objection in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Claims 12,13 and 16 have been amended as requested in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

The §112 rejections are moot, as the language that caused the rejection, which was previously inserted into claim 1 in the previous amendment, has been removed in favor of a different amendment that addresses the same issue. Support for the present amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification starting on page 5 line 7.

The Examiner still cites Chaplain against claim 1 to support a rejection for anticipation. Claim 1 has been differently amended to indicate that the seal must be activated by a force applied through one of the bodies in which it is mounted to sealingly span the annular space. It also has opposed ends compressed in a direction aligned with its longitudinal axis. The Chaplain reference bows the seal significantly to the point where it is not compressed in a direction along its longitudinal axis. For this reason, it does not need a further force to span the annular gap when the other tubular is inserted. Applicant previously argued that the Chaplain seal by virtue of significant bending could not meet the requirement of claim 1 for compression in a direction along the longitudinal axis. The further modification to claim 1 makes this previous distinction more clear. By being compressed in a direction substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis, the seal needs activation to span the annular gap for sealing. Chaplain, a low pressure application, is self-energizing when the other tubular is advanced to shoulder 10. It needs no activation, but then again it only holds water pressure typically seen in irrigation systems or water supply systems as stated in column 1 lines 10-23.

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to state that the beveled sealing surface spans the annular space. Heinze's surface 12b, relied upon by the Examiner does not do this. Rather surface 12b is inside a groove in the body that retains the seal. Surface 12f spans the annular space and is flat.

It is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is requested.